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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 1, 2021

First Week of Advent Meditation

by Rev. Kim Wood, Conference Minister



As we enter this season of Advent, we invite you to spend some time with your Conference Staff as we reflect on the light coming into the world.

News from the Conference Office

Changes To the Ministerial Profile System

If you have ever logged into the Ministerial Profile System (the system Ministers in the UCC use to search for new positions) you probably received at least one email about the upcoming conversion to a new system. This change is only about the system, not the content of the Ministerial Profile. I would recommend, if you have a fairly recent profile, that you log in before the end of the year and download a PDF of your profile so you have a copy of your information. Everything is supposed to transfer over, but it is better to have a copy just in case.

Not everyone uses our Ministerial Profile System as the profile is used to fill local church positions. Most of our Chaplains and other Specialized Ministers never circulate a profile. If you are a minister who keeps an active profile (are currently looking for a new position in a local church) then you will want to attend one of the trainings coming up next week about using the new system. Below is the information on the upcoming training. I also want to highlight the Reference Training for those who frequently serve as References for our Ministers.

Minister Training on the new Profile System

[December 7, 4:00 – 5:00pm ET](#) OR [December 14, 4:00 – 5:00pm ET](#)

This training walks ministers and MIDs through the process of registration and use of the new UCC Ministerial Profiles Portal. Staff from Suran Systems (who built the site) and MESA will be on hand and can answer general questions about the completion and use of the Snapshot and the Profile, as well as answer questions about the use of the system in the search and call process. The training is approximately 45 minutes in length and recurs a week later with identical content. Additionally, this training will be recorded and will be available on the UCC website and Suran's YouTube site for future reference.

Communities of Practice: A Program for Clergy

For Specialized Ministers and Local Church Pastors, these covenantal groups provide support and accountability, while encouraging good habits and professional growth. Small groups (5-6) led by a trained facilitator provide a place to share resources, experiences, and encouragement in a confidential setting.

Whether you are new to ministry, new to the UCC, or have years of experience, these groups are for you! The testimonies of those involved in Communities of Practice continue to praise the impact that groups have had on the personal and professional life of ministers. "Inspirational

sessions with Worship, Prayer and Fellowship... this is a time we 'unpack our baggage' of the clutter, as we invite Holy Spirit to fill the sacred space." COP participant Dorinda Broadnax

For more information about Communities of Practice, see this [article on our website](#) or contact Cindy Bovee-Kemper at COPfacilitator@secucc.org with questions or to sign up.

Clergy Zoom Connections for December

- **An Hour of Conversations and Prayer**

Tuesday, December 7, 14, 21 - 11:00 a.m. Eastern (10:00 a.m. Central); Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/479440102>



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2021. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

Week of December 5

- Sandy Creek UCC; LaFayette, Alabama
- Wendy Coleman
- Maureen Shelton
- Sonya Williams
- Mary Beth Hayes

Week of December 12

- Jones Chapel Congregational Christian; Woodbury, Georgia
- First Congregational UCC; Marion, Alabama
- Deborah Douglas
- Angie Wright
- Stephanie Milton
- Holly Nelson

Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Montgomery AL; First Congregational, Savannah GA; Trinity Congregational, Athens AL; Rush Memorial, Atlanta GA; Holy Trinity Community Church, Nashville TN; First United Church, Belvidere TN; Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill TN; Peace Congregational, Clemson SC; Deer Lodge Congregational Church, Deer Lodge TN

News from the Wider Church

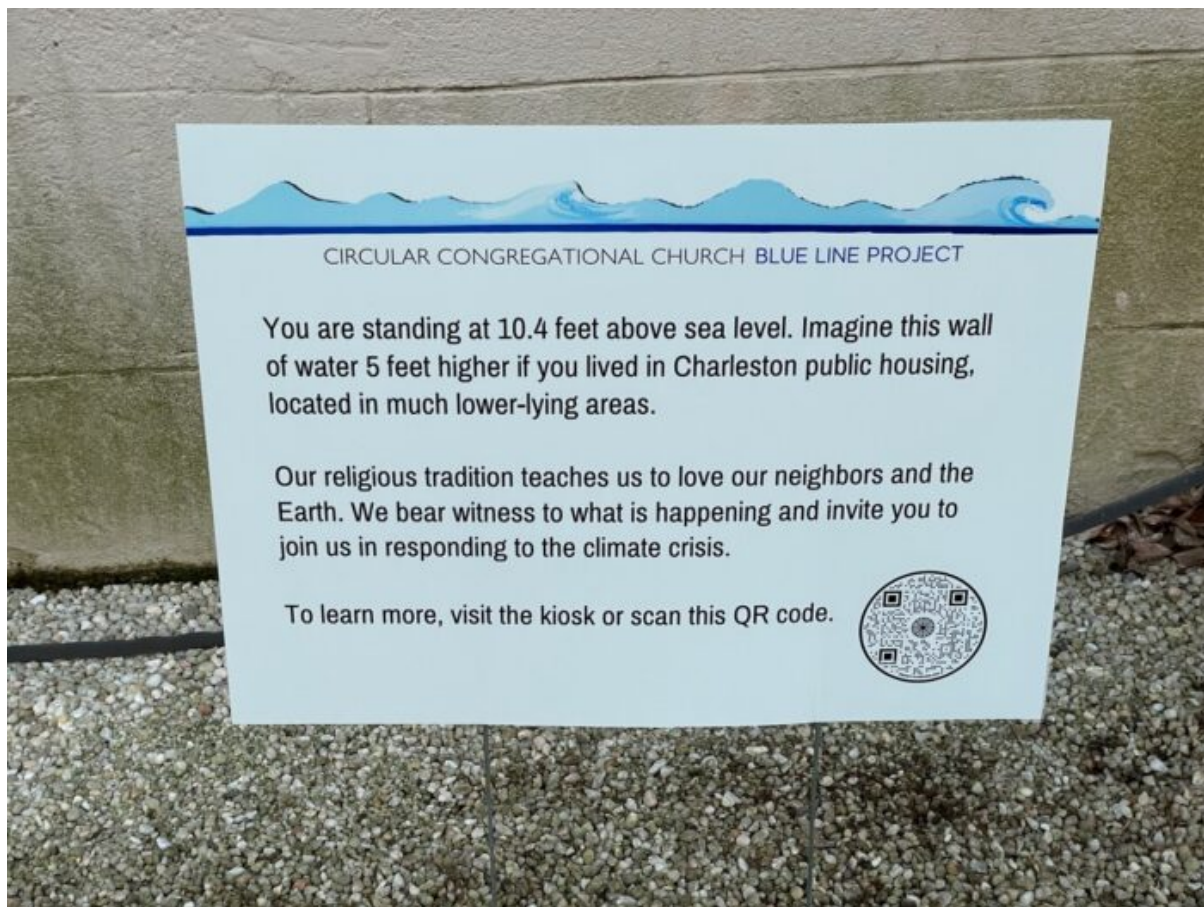


UCC Christmas Fund

The past several months have had a profound impact on UCC clergy and congregations, but because of gifts to the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross, those who have been affected the most have known they are not alone.

Gifts to the Christmas Fund bring relief and hope to those who have dedicated their lives to serving our churches. By supporting the Christmas Fund, you make a huge difference! Join with others in the United Church of Christ to bring good news and great joy to those who have given so much to our church. Download additional Christmas Fund promotional materials, including worship resources and a great coloring book for Advent 2021, at www.christmasfund.org.

News from our Local Congregations



Charleston church's Blue Line Project charts sea level

rise, bears witness to climate change

by [Connie Larkman](#)

Circular Congregational Church in Charleston, S.C., has embraced a project that illustrates the coming reality that is climate change. The United Church of Christ congregation is marking rising sea levels on a low-lying peninsula in a tangible way and inviting public interaction about the issue.

"We're putting up a blue line to bear witness to climate change," said Circular's senior pastor, the Rev. Jeremy Rutledge. "It's a dramatic attempt to draw attention to the crisis here at sea level."

The [historic downtown church](#), founded in 1681, dates back to colonial Charleston. Church members decided to use its prominent location to note the tangible threat of rising seas and appeal to the hundreds of tourists who walk through their campus every day with an easy way they can learn more.

The congregation has installed wavy blue lines on its buildings, marking the waterline at storm surge, so one could see what would be underwater. They also installed signs around the church yard that tell the story behind their Blue Line Project.

[Read the rest of the article on the UCC website.](#)

Trainings and Conferences



BRCC Winter Youth Retreat~ January 14-17, 2022

With continued COVID-19 mitigation efforts, the efforts of our churches, and the staff at the Blowing Rock Conference Center, we are pleased to announce that we will be holding WYR 2022. This year's theme and conversations will be focusing on our relationship with the earth and how God calls for us to care for all creation.

Our friends from Alatheia will be joining us for a weekend of storytelling, experiential education, service, and of course fun in the snow on January 14-17, 2022. Registration is now open. Group Leaders, please [click here to register your full group](#). [Group leaders, please click here to enter your participant's information](#). (Both forms need to be completed and ONE check mailed to BRCC.)

The early registration fee until December 1, 2021, is \$185.00. All registrations after December 1, 2021, will be \$200.00. We look forward to seeing you on the mountain. <https://www.uccwinteryouthretreat.org/>

Conference Calendar

December 7 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EST

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

December 14 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EST

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

December 21 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EST

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

View the **full calendar** of events online: <https://www.secucc.org/events/>

Contact Us

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